

Abyss Of Love And Blood

Screenplay By:

Reza Taheribashar

FADE IN

LONG SHOT

[EXT-A palace in Egypt-NIGHT]

A little silence, then the sound of fighting and running away; a young and beautiful girl comes up, confused and scared; she runs from one side to the other and goes out of the corner; from behind is the sound of things falling is heard, Ardashir is shouting, The drunken laughter of "Roxana, do not run" is heard; a little silence, and then the girl falls from the top, and blood covers the whole stage.

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM SHOT

[EXT-Mourning song is played, black-clad mourners are present-DAY]

Priest

alas, from endless crimes / from the eternal
evil temptations / because as if Satan is about
to rise / and God is about to fall / for all this
filth and crime

*[the black-clad Cyrus comes, pours
frankincense into the fire, and rushes away]*

(CONTINUED)

[INT-In a room in the palace, Prizatish is sitting on a chair behind a table and holding her head in her hands; Cyrus comes, and after a while, Prizatish lifts her head-DAY]

ZOOM IN

Prizatish

Close the windows

Cyrus

Are you drunk?

Prizatish

no

Cyrus

there are reports that Athens is preparing to recapture Malatya, and the Massagetae are also increasing their forces to attack the east...

Prizatish

I want to be alone

Cyrus

...and Ardashir and the army of the West, and
we are still in Egypt and far away

Prizatish

Lovely round

Go out

Cyrus

Where?

[Goes to the window]

I'm not afraid from him

[to Prizatish]

Not anymore

Prizatish

Farther and farther

Cyrus

[holds up a mirror in front of her face]

Look at yourself

[Cyrus furious]

Look

Prizatish

Get out of here

Cyrus

There is no place to go; We have been hostages
of Ardeshir for years

Prizatish

Ardashir, my dear son...

Cyrus

No one will ever forget anything

Prizatish

Isn't it a disaster? Her glorious brother raped
her...

Cyrus

I am not guilty; neither I nor Bardia

Prizatish

*[as if she is trying to break the words in the
air]*

Uneven words without weight / Like a leaf in
the wind

[Laughs]

Innocent ... innocent

[sits down]

We are all sinners

Cyrus

You are drunk

Prizatish

No...no

Cyrus

Ardashir raped to our sister/ the King who tore
the borders/ perhaps in the way of the ancient
natives of Iran or the tradition of the pharaohs
of this land/ madly and away from us, he
attacked the sky, against all gods / in the fall of
his soul

[Calm]

Not me, not Bardia

[Prizatish moves the crown on her head]

Prizatish

who killed herself

Cyrus

who killed herself

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM SHOT

[INT-In an empty and dark room, Ardashir comes, goes from side to side, whispers, and suddenly stops in the middle-DAY]

Ardashir

There is no one.

It's only me, and Nobody anymore

DISSOLVE TO

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Cyrus slips drunk and continuously drinks from the bottle of Wine-MORNING]

Cyrus

You are exclusively mine. You are my fiance. Me and only me. But you keep humiliating me in front of everyone.

Andia

Because you don't have the courage and courage to do great things.

Cyrus

You won't let me touch you. You won't let me get close to you. And I'm dying of the hangover of your inaccessibility.

Andia

Weak man, a coward, Andia does not marry cowards

Cyrus

You are my love, my share. Not King. Has Ardashir's power blinded you? Do you want to be a queen? But remember that I raised you from a small aristocratic family to the royal

court. Remember that your glory and position today are because of my grace. Everything about you belongs to me. Your flesh, skin, bones, and your beautiful eyes. Everything. Even Ardashir can't take you away from me, either.

Andia

Be strong. Do something great. And then I will be yours. Only then.

Cyrus

What can be done against the crazy Ardashir except for rebellion?

Andia

Think well. Ardashir does not have intellectual stability. He rages and tears and then does whatever he wants. This crazy King will definitely not have mercy on you too. He will not have mercy on anyone and will drag all of us to hell one by one. So I don't bet on the loser. Because I want to survive. I want to gain power. Is it not logical? It's not fair?

Cyrus

[He laughs madly]

Do you want to see my head on the gallows?
Are you pushing me towards the valley of terror
and destruction with tricks and cunning, so
that I will be executed for the crime of treason
and you will be freed from my clutches?

Andia

Maybe. If you remain weak and incompetent
like this.

[laughter]

who knows

Cyrus

charming devil

[Drunken Cyrus]

Andia

I heard his divine voice among the leaves of the
trees that I am so excited to have you *[Cyrus
goes to the windows and looks outside]*

Isn't it beautiful?

*[Takes a flowering branch against the light and
looks at it]* Leave me alone

[Goes towards the window]

You are weak, Cyrus, small and weak

Cyrus

And you seem to be too wise. Too much
wisdom also has its own dangers.

Andia

[Smiles]

I heard my really strong beloved song in the
garden alley and ran to him in fear...

Cyrus

When my honey was in her palate/ when I
suddenly whipped her with my great love

Andia

a coward boy

Cyrus

[slaps Andia's face]

Whore, after all these years of patience...

[takes a step back and comes back]

You, you...

[Kneels]

Andia, forgive me/ with a silk body / And your
soft hands

[drinks]

as soft as the eyelids of red flowers, O White
swan

*[Andia wants to leave, he grabs the corner of
her skirt]*

Don't go

Andia

Stop it

Cyrus

[terrified]

Don't run away from me

Andia

You have gone mad/ The climate of Egypt, the
howling of the gods of this land has made you
mad

[turns]

the spirit of that sister has made you all mad

Cyrus

Sometimes I can hear her screams

Andia

So do something

[quietly]

Don't you want to take revenge?

Cyrus

[opens his hands]

fleeing from the clutches of the drunkard king
to the top of the palace and then fall and...

Andia

And then?

Cyrus

The echo of her scream hurts my ears

[then pulls Andia towards him]

Andia

You are all crazy

Cyrus

You are my betrothed; I have dragged you hard
here from the Capital

Andia

O God, who will release me from your grip?

Cyrus

Maybe Ardashir

maybe

[laughs]

Your eyes won't see me anymore

Andia

Despicable person...

Cyrus

even Wine won't make me drunk anymore

[Raises his head angrily]

Never betray me, girl

DISSOLVE TO

(CONTINUED)

Prizatish

What were my wishes, what were my dreams
and what happened in the end?

Time has stuck its dagger in my heart and now
I tremble with anger from morning till night.

What have we relied on to stand? Who else can
be trusted anymore?/ We did not give up in
war and famine, drought, thirst, and disease

But in the great sin of the King, yes

In the King who breaks the borders, yes

And in the sins that have taken hold of us and
go through our veins and chew on us like dry
wood, yes/yes

but...

O god, the consequences are inevitable; the
consequences are endless.

[shaking]

But I shouldn't forgive. I shouldn't ignore
injustice and insult. I can't forgive.

Forgiveness here is not fair at all.

so, Don't let Ardashir and his broken sword
and his broken heart fool you, and don't let
Ardashir Get rid of your revenge

Because sinner must be punished

/ so don't let love make you kind

Because in the end, the punishment for
disobedience, insolence, treachery and rape
must be given.

Because this is justice, although it always hurts.
It is always painful.

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Prizatish is sitting in the middle and is looking straight ahead; Cyrus comes and spins and puts his hand on the wall-DUSK]

Cyrus

Darkness and anger have accumulated in the veins of your room, Mother; you can touch it

[he wipes the dust off the frame]

that's life/ One person's sin falls on everyone /
And the sorrow of one person swallows the whole world

What did he do with that girl, Ardashir? What have we done?

Prizatish

Tell me the truth/ Why do you encourage me to take revenge?/ are you fighting for the throne or to control Andia?

Don't trust that scarred snake; she still won't accept you in her bed?

Cyrus

[Angry]

O spears, tear the defenseless body of Cyrus

Whose story of overthrow and his weakness
has deafened the ears of the world

Prizatish

Andia and her defeated and spiteful family
have always been cunning and opportunistic
/fear her. Don't throw yourself into the
Ardashir well with its rotten rope.

Cyrus

I am not afraid of anymore / Egyptian Greek
mercenaries and opponents of the King are also
with me

Prizatish

That sly girl will marry only the King, whoever
he is / Do you want to be the King?

Cyrus

Maybe yes and maybe no / Who knows? /but I
am tired of being a hostage for years and the
sadness of my sister's death and suffering from
the temptations of my brother / Wow... I am
wandering in a wonderful vortex / In a mixed
fantasy of the past and the present / But I will
not deceive you / No / Jealousy also chews and

crushes my bone marrow / Ardashir has made
Andia his mistress.

Prizatish

Leave that girl

Cyrus

Shall I let her go?

But that's not all

[he walks forward and stops]

All our enemies have heard about Ardeshir's
madness and are uniting against the king.
Chaos and disorder is slowly taking over Iran.

[takes his head in his hands]

someone Must stop Ardashir

CAMERA ZOOMS TO

Prizatish

we can not.

He is crazy but also smart/ with a powerful
army / the victorious king over ancient Egypt is
not a small man.

Cyrus

Someone should stop him

Prizatish

[Firmly]

You and I can't

Cyrus

What about Bardia? After the long-term
instability of Ardashir's sick mind and his
immorality, and his many years away from the
throne, only my brother Bardia will have the
strength and courage to fight him and his
army.

Prizatish

Rebellion against the King?

Cyrus

We can tempt Bardia to take Ardashir's
position, and with a little luck, he can pull the
King down from his throne. In Iran and around

the King, I have those who will be useful in a special time, Bardia from that side and us from this side.

Prizatish

[Stands]

Brother-with-Brother War

[Horrificed]

The King should not be killed

Cyrus

The King should not be killed.

We will dismiss him; we will shorten his hand

Prizatish

Bardia is loyal / and so are we

Cyrus

Us too?

[quietly]

I have written secret letter to Bardia

Prizatish

[moves her hands violently as if to push something away from her]

A sea of blood, fire, and smoke

Cyrus

Bardia still doubts and does not know many things, If you also write to him ... / because Bardia loves you

[he kneels]

If you tell him the story of Ardashir's misdeeds, if he knows the story of his rape of our sister, which we hid from everyone, maybe Bardia will decide more easily.

Mother, you have a lot of power, you still have an official royal position, you still have a valid royal seal, the nobles of Iran also trust you and will accept your offer and words. It is enough to help me and Bardia in this battle. We will overthrow Ardashir And we take our revenge on him

Prizatish

The King should not be killed

Cyrus

There will be no death

Prizatish

But he will die

Cyrus

There will be no death

[Prizatish shivers and puts her hand on the crown]

Cyrus

Write a letter with a special and royal seal

Prizatish

I don't know, I can't

Cyrus

You can. Bardia is the legal successor of Ardashir. And you are the owner of the signature, seal, and credibility with the powerful Achaemenid nobles and elders. We need your seal and approval, If you ask Bardia to sit on the throne. If you explain all the events and happenings in Egypt to him. He will do it if you ask him to rebel against the King. Because this eldest son of yours is crazy. Because he will

destroy us one by one, like our innocent sister. If you encourage them to remove the crazy Ardashir, with your approval and signature and the boundless power of the Bardia army, they will accept. And we will remove the King.

Prizatish

This riot will turn into a massacre. Don't doubt it.

Cyrus

Mother, I have soldiers and companions in Egypt , but also need your help. Because we have to act sooner than him. because Ardashir's mind is disturbed, and Ardeshir will become more crazy and more dangerous day by day. So help me. I have sent a courier to Bardia. to prepare for the rebellion against the King. If you accept my opinion and write that letter to the elders and nobles, Bardia definatly will also accept my proposal And he is being prepared for the kingdom. After accepting him, we will arrest the King with my soldiers during the celebration of the conquest of Egypt and declare Bardia's reign.

This is how you can avenge your daughter's blood from your rapist son.

Ardashir

[Drunken comes from the corner, the mother is still looking ahead, Ardashir turns around the mother]

Oh, stone face mother is here / Smooth and
silent and hard / And wounded / What is the
mother looking at? what is he thinking / to
Torn body of the innocent Ardashir on the
cross

/With hard nails

[calm]

/A mother who wishes to tear Ardashiri's body,
who does what he wants / a drunkard boy who
tried, suddenly to grab hold of the biggest sins
and with God fights [Suddenly stops] but why?
was guilty it really Ardashir?

Because these days, Ardashir's behavior is
unbelievable even for Ardashir himself.
Because I don't know myself properly anymore.
I don't believe in my own actions. I am
unknown to myself.

Does anyone else know Ardashir? Do you know
me? Or you, Cyrus, my brother? *[shouts]*

Nobody really knows me

[with crossed arms]

So don't judge him and don't sink your teeth
into his flesh.

Cyrus

Mother is tired

(CONTINUED)

[EXT-the security guards on the top of the palace concourse, the rhythmic sound of footsteps and the chirping of birds, Megabaz with a few companions come from one side and go out from the other after talking-NIGHT]

Megabaz

[Thinking]

Really? Did Cyrus leave in a hurry?

[Suddenly stops and shows his second and third companions]

You and you follow him quickly

[The two of them hurry, and Megabaz turns to the third companion]

Has the report of the Bardia Corps spies arrived? If our guess is correct, What will the King do?

(CONTINUED)

CLOSE UP

[INT-PALACE-NIGHT]

Prizatish

[Unsettled, pen in hand]

How can I write such a letter against my son?
How can I betray this traitor? / that the writer
is in mourning / What is in the end of this job?
My hand does not move, and my tension is
shaking

[he goes and stands]

Should I write or not?

With My bleeding pen

[Ardashir comes in]

Ardashir

Prizatish Queen Mother...

Prizatish

The Great King, My dear former son

[bows her head]

Ardashir

you talk to your son; isn't that promising?

Prizatish

because I am old

Ardashir

What is the cause of your terrible smile? What is it?

Prizatish

Maybe it's a sign of hatred from you

Ardashir

hatred...

Prizatish

My tricks opened your way in the royal court among the waiting hyenas, but this is how you appreciated me after all these years.

Ardashir

Ardashir is innocent...

Prizatish

You are sick

Ardashir

Sick?

[Laughs]

No...

Prizatish

sick and spiteful and angry

Ardashir

For years...

Prizatish

I did everything possible for you

Ardashir

Everything?

[Laughs]

You never loved me enough.

Prizatish

I wanted you to be strong, King

Ardashir

Look

[shows the empty space and turns around and then goes back a little] birds/Blackbirds

Prizatish

I fought for you to become king, but you betrayed your family and me and killed your sister.

Ardashir

[opens his hands and closes his eyes]

Ardashir's wings hurt/ his dreams hurt

[Prizatish leaves, Ardashir takes a few steps with open hands, Megabaz enters]

Megabaz

Your Highness

Ardashir

[steady and with closed eyes]

Say Megabaz

Megabaz

Secret agents warn about the possibility of a conspiracy

Ardashir

Has Bardia conspired?

Megabaz

We don't know

Ardashir

Take care of him step by step / And Cyrus?

Megabaz

He has had talks with the Greek merchants, and again he has sent people to Iran in disguise and secretly whom we are looking for. No one should have the courage and opportunity to betray the King of Iran. What will you do with these reports?

Ardashir

I don't know

Megabaz

Europe is waiting for the Iranian army.the King should not forget the Greece.

Ardashir

I will finally destroy Greece.

(CONTINUED)

[INT-in bed-NIGHT]

Ardashir

I am crumpled in myself in an endless
contraction / as if nothing has happened /as if I
don't seem to have any new plans, but I do

[Silence]

Ardashir swallows and annihilates everyone in
his nothingness

[scared]

Listen, as if The sister knocks on the door and
cries

[suddenly laughs madly]

but the sister doesn't know either, no / no one
knows/No one knows about this new crime

[drinks]

I have been planning for several days /
hard/hard

[Ardashir raises his hands]

My sister knocks on the door with her small
fists and cries, but my sister doesn't know/My
mother doesn't know either

No one knows the plan for my new terrible crime.

[kneels]

may God lead me to peace

(CONTINUED)

*[INT-Cyrus goes up and down in confusion,
Ardashir comes from a corner-MORNING]*

Cyrus

my Lord

Ardashir

Where is Andia?

[Cyrus speaks more calmly]

Where?

*[He remains silent for a while and then walks
forward and stands]*

As if that girl is always a place that has power
and benefits for her

[He exits, Megabaz comes back]

Ardashir

Result?

Megabaz

In the plains of Syria, we captured the courier
of Cyrus with your brother's letter to Bardia,
probably your mother is also an accomplice of

Cyrus; we changed the letter and set a trap for Bardia by order of the King.

No one should have the courage to betray the Iranian King

Ardashir

[pulls his sword angrily]

Treacherous brothers

[stunned]

treacherous mother

Megabaz

We are waiting now

Ardashir

Watch out for them

(CONTINUED)

[INT- in the King's dormitory, Ardashir rolls over on the bed, he sits scared-DAY]

Ardashir

Endless Chaos / What is the sound?

Whose cry is in the heart of this short,
disturbed sleep/Where does this sad song come
from ?

/ which screams to the marrow of my bones /
and not even a small dream helps me/

Where are my guards?/sleep scaped my eyes /
A dream that came hard and went easily [Birds'
voice] Around and near me this land full of
chaos / Around and near me these endless
nightmares [Shouts] There is no one to answer
me / Guard, guard / Give me the answer

[grabs his ears]

Silence the voices / all voices

[sits down, the Guard comes]

Guard

My Lord

Ardashir

[points to a side with his finger]

Shut them up

[The Guard goes out and returns]

Guard

Lady Andia wants to see you

[Andia comes]

Ardashir

You remembered Ardashir at a bad time

[Ardashir sits on the bed; Andia walks around the room and goes from window to window, and pulls aside the curtains]

Andia

The dawn comes, and the unrest of the King
puts fear in the hearts of his companions and
gives strength to the bodies of the old
Egyptians

[looks out of the window]

These cries pass through all the barriers

[Ardashir wraps a blanket]

Ardashir

What do you want?

Andia

Nothing

Ardashir

Nothing and only nothing? / I have been afraid
of the crowd of nothing for years

Andia

There is restlessness and chaos in everyone, it
is also in us/ me and your brother / as same as
distant islands / he is the master of his land
and sometimes with me / alone in bed, us too

Ardashir

You do not understand me

Andia

Maybe I can guess there is a big decision
ahead?

Andia does not spare her soul and power from King.

Ardashir

The only soul?

Andia

The only and the only soul..., unless...

Ardashir

unless?

Andia

unless...

[Andia holds the fairy in her palm]

Are you still Dealing with the nightmare of sin?

Ardashir

[Lustful, he goes towards Andia]

The beautiful Andia

Andia

Get up; how many are like me

[spinning]

Even more beautiful

Ardashir

No, no prettier and no better

*[Andia approaches and stands beside
Ardashir's bed and slowly shakes the bed bars]*

My Lord, Your decision to have me is still not final. If you want me for marriage, I will be yours forever.

Ardashir

Because of the news of the conspiracies of the Greeks, I'm confused these days and can't make a firm decision.

Andia

Pour them into the sea and destroy them

Ardashir

Remind me of their destruction.

Andia

I sacrifice my live in the way of the King

[Andia exits]

Ardashir

I am in the dream of your body

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM SHOT

[INT-In the celebration of the anniversary of the conquest of Egypt, Ardashir is sitting on the throne, the priests and Prizatish are on one side, and Andia is on the other side-DAY]

Ardashir

Dance and drink and again, again / until the last sip, until the pure selfishness [looks at his glass and pours the Wine] until everyone breaks / forget and immerse himself in illusion / but this Wine does not good / no/ this Wine no longer intoxicates /I want stronger Wine

Andia

[Andia goes forward and pours Wine]

The bartender's hand is not ineffective either

[the priest comes forward]

Priest

We hope that this kingdom will be eternal and stable

Ardashir

Stable as a rock

Andia

The King should not forget the Greeks

Ardashir

Only the Greeks?

Prizatish

[laughs]

The Iranian King will not forget anything

[Everyone calms down; Ardashir suddenly stands up but doesn't say a word and sits down, stands again, and gives a worried look to the crowd]

Ardashir

[quietly]

It's a great day

[the celebration begins]

a memorable day

[sounds from behind the stage, but Ardashir does not turn his head, Prizatish gets up, shakes her hand a little, looks behind the

stage, and comes towards Ardashir, who looks straight at her]

Prizatish

And now this is my son, whom I am pleased with

[She embraces Ardashir and covers his face with her hair, Megabaz enters with some soldiers and And he shows some courtiers to his soldiers to arrest them]

Megabaz

Arrest him too, him...

[Ardashir separates from his mother and pulls away, and sits back]

Ardashir

Arrest Prizatish too

[Soldiers take Prizatish to the corner]

Ardashir

Take him too

[looks left and right and points to the empty space with his finger]

Take him too

Megabaz

Your Highness

[Ardashir goes back and sits on the throne and pulls the corner of the royal robe over a part of his face and puts his head, and leans back, Ardashir laughs bitterly]

Andia

But Prizatish is your mother.

Ardashir

My mother?

Megabaz

Is there a command to bring him?

[Ardashir does not answer]

Megabaz

Shall we start the great show?

[Ardashir nods; the four soldiers who have taken the coffin from the four corners, put the coffin down and leave; Ardashir descends]

*slowly, walks forward, and kneels as if he is
praying, gets up and puts the cloth aside, and
reveals the bloodied body, Prizatish goes
ahead and stands next to the coffin]*

Ardashir

And now, Bardia, there he is / with the whole
of his kind body/ which resting his head on the
rock of destruction

/in a bloody silk / so soft and light that any
breeze / nor no storm can bend his beautiful
kind face.

No one is with him anymore .No one can love
him and conspire against me with him
anymore.

No fire / No stone crypt / No waves of the sea /
No uneven winds / No kind mother, and no me
/ No me, and no one

[Prizatish kneels and cries, Andia approaches]

look, Mother, that he is forever dead

[puts his hand on Bardia]

bloody and shapeless /my little brother, Bardia

Alas

[Megabaz enters]

Megabaz

My majesty, we have foiled their plot. First, we cleverly arrested the treacherous courier. Then we sent fake couriers, fake agents, and fake letters between Cyrus, his companions, and Bardia. This is how we recognize this Betrayal's soldiers, allies, and accomplices. In this way, we destroyed the Betrayal from the inside. We recognized and arrested the soldiers and their associates in the royal court. My Lord, today, the King was supposed to be pulled down from the throne and arrested. But their plan was revealed. Today, the traitors have been defeated and died.

[Goes toward Bardia's body and kneels]

Alas from the children of Achaemenid

Alas, for this body

Alas from Bardia

But Betrayal does not go unanswered.

My majesty, we have always had spies on Bardia's side because we have always been one

step ahead of our enemies. those loyal to the King killed him before the Betrayal .

Ardashir

What about Cyrus?

Megabaz

He escaped from the King's clutches, but the King's guards follow him wherever he goes, and he will not run away .

Ardashir

[turns his head and looks at Bardia]

Bury him sooner

Megabaz

But you should bury the lifeless body of your brother and former successor in the presence of Iranian elders and in Iran.

Ardashir

[Angry]

As soon as possible, put Bardia's bloodied body next to his sister's grave

[Soldiers take the mother and exit]

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Empty room; Andia goes to the window and looks out-NIGHT]

Andia

Why did he kill Bardia?

Prizatish

You have become beautiful like a bride

Well done to Cyrus

[turns her head]

or Ardashir?

Andia

[approaches]

Bardia's death was a wound on the body of
me

Prizatish

[as if to himself]

Don't be afraid, Bardia is dead and he will no longer be a nightmare for you, my dear, but I don't know the revenge of Cyrus' dagger.

Andia

On whom?

Prizatish

You should know better. A wounded man does not ask or believe

Andia

I have not had a hand in Bardia's case, and I will not have any

I haven't committed any sin, and I have no fear

Prizatish

The hidden blades suddenly don't know these things

Andia

And they don't ask? Cyrus has threatened to kill me with successive messages

Prizatish

I am trapped in prison, sitting in a trap ...

[Prizatish looks straight ahead]and waiting

Andia

What are you waiting for?

Prizatish

nothing doesn't matter to me anymore

[Silence]

Maybe I am waiting for a hungry vulture is
looking for my blood

Andia

I had no hand in Bardia's death, write this for
Cyrus or tell his spies

[Prizatish laughs]

Prizatish

Bardia is not dead, girl

[Laughs]

Bardia never dies

/No

[Laughs, Andia grabs her hands]

Andia

Prizatish, mother

[Prizatish calms down, Andia goes to the window and looks outside, Prizatish calls the jailer]

prison officer

[The jailer comes, and his prisoner stands]

EXTREME CLOSE UP

Prizatish Berdya never dies

(CONTINUED)

[EXT-Ardashir talks to himself-NIGHT]

Ardashir

So... what could I do? mother

Should I die?

Should I have let them betray me?/ What is my sin that I attack the enemy earlier?

My hands tremble and attack with a dagger/
that all my soul trembles but attacks.

[Kneels]

but I am guilty,

Because all the looks scream. Because the spirits attack me and call in my heart that I am a sinner.

May the sun and the moon fall on me

May the daggers descend on me in anger so that I may be punished.

Let the earth swallow me. let the mountains run away from me

Let the hills hide their horrors and murmurs

[Andia arrives and looks]

until God destroys me for my sins

[Ardashir falls to his knees and extends the dagger to her]

Ardashir

Now the head and now the body

Andia

my Lord, get up

[Turns around Ardashir]

Ardashir

Ardashir

[shouts]

Hit it

(CONTINUED)

*[EXT-Megabaz is talking to the soldiers,
Ardashir comes-NIGHT]*

Megabaz

my majesty

Ardashir

[Slowly speaking to himself]

Oh, this flood of blood...

[covers his palms in his sleeves]

It covers the world and drowns in itself

Megabaz

Three letters from our spies have arrived

Ardashir Megabaz...

[points with a finger]

Blackbirds

Look at the birds.

*[The King covers his eyes in fear and retreats,
Megabaz motions for the soldiers to go]*

Megabaz

They conspired and were killed. The monarchy of such a big country sometimes requires violence, it is reported that the Greeks want to rebel against us with the people of Cappadocia, Lydia, Malatya, and maybe the Egyptians.

Ardashir

[Slowly to himself]

The earth.. red, the sky.. red, red and covered

Megabaz

[Kneels]

The victorious King

The conqueror of Ancient Egypt

we must attack Greece and Europe with all of our swords and soldiers

[He hesitates, turns to Ardashir]

Also, Spies have reported that some people in Iran have rumored that they saw Bardia alive in the Capital.

Ardashir

[Laughs madly]

Escaped from the bloody blade of his brother
fled forever

Megabaz

Rumors should be taken seriously. You should go to the Capital of Iran. The land and the Capital of eastern Iran, without an official successor and without the presence of the King, will be scattered and chaotic; you should appoint a successor as soon as possible.

And be present in the Capital yourself

People need to see the King without tension

[Ardashir exits]

but the King

[follows the King]

It should be done as soon as possible...

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM SHOT

[INT-Ardashir is sitting on the throne, angry and silent, and is looking straight ahead, soldiers are bringing his mother with closed hands-DAY]

Andia

Command them to open the mother's hands

Ardashir

My hands, with their veins and roots, were now rotten, and my bones had been chewed up to the marrow by ants and Egyptian termites, Because my mother had conspired to kill me.

Prizatish

the murderer

Ardashir

Oh, there is such a fire inside of me that I have become ashes on the floor of the winds

/For my sister Roksana / For my brother Bardia / For my mother / For you Andia

[points to the soldiers with his finger]

for you and for you... and you

[brings his hands suddenly in front of his eyes]

Why should I open my mother's hands so she
will softly and cunningly tie the rope she has
woven in her imagination around my neck and
kill me? /on the neck of her son /me

[gets up]

King Ardashir

*[Andia wants to give an answer, which is
silenced by Ardashir's rapid hand movement]*

Let she want

She doesn't want, and she doesn't say

never

[rises]

my mother was Complicit in the masterful plan
of the enemy to rebel against my sin.

/Betrayal for the crime of raping my sister /
that has thrown me into the vortex without a
solution

[The King shakes his hands and walks forward]

I am innocent, mother / I have no guilt

[comes to Andia]

What is my sin?

[Andia is silent]

What is it? It was a pure evil temptation for a moment, and that's it. But it didn't happen, or I didn't consciously want it.

Andia

Command them to untie the straps

Ardashir

[Laughs]

This woman stood up and said "This is my son whom I am pleased with," she hardened all her hatred in her words and turned it into stone. Then the mother, according to the pre-arranged plot with Cyrus, covered me with her long hair in her arms so the rebels would attack me.

And arrest me in my mother's arms

Andia

But...

Ardashir

[walks forward and looks into her eyes]

Ask me for your freedom, mother

[shouts]

She should ask for it herself

Ask your son

[Confused]

Don't withhold your love from me/Ask me to
open all the bonds with my wounded soul and
bloody hands.

[Mother is silent]

No / Mother will not want

*[He kneels next to his mother and looks at her
bracelet, Megabaz comes]*

Megabaz

I have important reports from the western
borders

[Ardashir turns it off with a hand movement]

Ardashir

Don't spoil our little celebration

[To Andia]

Where is Cyrus?

Andia

I don't know

Ardashir

[gets up and looks directly into Andia's eyes]

She has swans in her eyes

Andia

No

[spinning]

No

Ardashir

[grabs Andia's hand and forcefully pulls her to Prizatish]

There is a swan in her eyes, mother

Andia

[drops her hand]

Stop it

Ardashir

[slowly to himself]

Red... the sky is red, everywhere is red...

Megabaz

The King should not forget the Greeks.

Prizatish

The King will never forget anything

Andia

Mother

Megabaz

The queen's mother should not aggravate the anger of the King.

Ardashir

The King does not forget anything

Megabaz

my Lord

Ardashir

The King never forgets the mother

[stands next to the mother]

No

[exits, Megabaz bows before the mother]

Prizatish

The killer

Megabaz

I am a soldier of the King and my country, not
a bloodthirsty criminal

Prizatish

You killed Bardia cowardly

Megabaz

Not me/my job was to follow and spy on him

Prizatish

You plunged the knives into Bardia's heart

[Laughs]

One after another

Andia

[grabs Prizatish's arms in his palm]

You shouldn't make Ardashir angry; you
shouldn't

Prizatish

Only me?

[Andia walks out]

Megabaz

Iran is in danger. Chaos is near.

Prizatish

What do you want from this woman's soul?/
This soul is broken

[Angry]

Leave me with all my pain / Leave me alone / I
don't know anything anymore and I don't want

anything / With a tired body facing death / And
in chains

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Ardashir is sitting on the throne-DAY]

Megabaz

In the past few days, Greek mercenary scouts in the western borders have attacked the border forts and guards and retreated.

Ardashir

We have a peace treaty with the Greeks.

Megabaz

The Greeks are trying hard to penetrate Asia; maybe they are testing our forces.

Ardashir

Athens and Sparta?

Megabaz

with Cyrus, the enemies were aware of the details and working framework of the fortresses; maybe someone or some people informed them of the secrets.

Ardashir

Has my brother been a spy for them?

Megabaz

with a strong probability

Ardashir

[to himself]

But I haven't done anything, I have not betrayed anyone to see betrayal.

Megabaz

A more important point is that the rumors of Bardia being alive have spread in Iran. The King must go to the Capital and appoint a successor. The danger is near.

Ardashir

[He pushes something away with his hand]

But I haven't done anything / haven't I? The King has not done a bad thing to be punished and betrayed

[raises his hand with a dagger]

Am I the one who moves the dagger up and down?

[It is as if he is aiming at someone's heart with a dagger]

Or from me without me? The me that is not me
/ Megabaz, is this my hand, flesh, and bones?
/who knows

[Looks at the mirror]

Who is looking at me?

[puts his hand on his face]

This is not my face, and this look

[Calm]

If I am not me, then who am I?/what am I if I
am not all these and I am?

Megabaz

As soon as possible, send an auxiliary corps to
the Western borders and go to the Capital with
the corps

Ardashir

Not yet / I am not ready yet; I will return to
Iran at the peak

[Hesitantly]

Don't forget my mother too

[Megabaz exits, Andia comes slowly]

Andia

[stands next to and behind Ardashir and follows his line of sight]

Black crows

The Messengers of Hell

[Andia laughs and softly approaches]

Andia

the King should not be afraid; the King should not run away from a lustful attractive girl

[Ardashir extends her hands]

Ardashir

Don't come closer

[Andia walks to stage right and then back to stage left and suddenly comes back in anger]

Andia

The King should not be afraid of anything, Just
as I am not afraid of Cyrus and his spies
constantly threatening me with death.

The King must take revenge on Cyrus. Don't let
the spiteful Cyrus go free. Cyrus conspires
against the King.

Ardashir

Does he want to kill me?

Andia

[comes to the front of the stage]

You have to ask him these things, go to him
with your powerful army, arrest him, and ask
him face to face.

Ardashir

I'm tired of all this

[closes his eyes]

What a pleasant smell; the tempting perfume
permeated the air

Andia

Take my revenge on him, and then I will be
yours forever.

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Ardashir writes something-DAY]

Ardashir

*[comes and takes the letter and leaves,
Megabaz comes]*

What is the new news? Megabaz

Megabaz

Nothing yet, but we have increased the strength and readiness of border guards and border forces and have changed the methods to some extent.

Ardashir

What is the estimate of our representatives?

Megabaz

We don't have a special report yet

[Andia comes]

or the Greeks have skillfully hidden their bloody hands.

Ardashir

What about Cyrus?

Andia

[calmly]

My good Cyrus...

Megabaz

He constantly meets the enemies of the King
and finds allies for himself.

Andia

My spiteful Cyrus..

Ardashir

It's not painful that a brother tries to fight with
his brother?

Megabaz

We are following him step by step

Ardashir

Take advantage of the charming Andia's
guidance too. She knows him well.

Megabaz

How about your mother? Your Mother is wounded and always dangerous.

Ardashir

My mother?

My kind mother...

(CONTINUED)

[INT-Ardashir moans in his sleep; Andia comes into the room and stands in a corner-NIGHT]

Andia

[calm]

The unstoppable vortex of his psyche will engulf the world. His violent spirit will kill and will not stop.

[spins in anger]

in Endless chaos/your anger will kill everyone /
and your bloody blade will not wait/But let
your anger kill everyone. Let it destroy
everyone, and then take me in your arms and
possess my body until I finally become queen
and calm down. Until I finally gain power.

And rule over you too.

[Her voice is lustful]

Ardashir

[Ardashir wakes up and sits]

Andia

Nightmares again?

Ardashir

My nightmare tonight was the death of my sister. The black dream of my little sister's terrible fall caused me crazy.

[Andia goes to the mirror, combs her hair, and turns and looks at Ardashir]

Andia

You need a wife who calms you down, whose hands are magic, who heals you.

Ardashir

Prizatish's heart is broken

Andia

What is she doing now in prison? Does anyone know?

Ardashir

My mother is mourning the death of her children

Andia

[looks around]

The King is alone in the dormitory. The King is alone. Isn't it a disaster?

[Ardashir stretches his hands hard and slowly toward Andia, but Andia pulls back; Ardashir pulls herself to the other corner of the bed]

Stop thinking about the past in vain. Throw away all the nightmares. What was supposed to be done is done.

just this .

[the Guard comes]

Ardashir

Say

Guard

General Megabaz wants to meet the King sooner

Ardashir

a Night full of worries

[Megabaz comes]

Megabaz

My lord/the army of Greece in...

[Andia comes from the corner]

Andia

[smiling]

The King's shouts had made me sleepless

Ardashir

Say Megabaz

Megabaz

The Greeks have started advancing from the western borders with a large army, infantry, and cavalry and have attacked the three garrisons on the Aegean coast. So far, they have advanced rapidly, and we have lost several valuable cities on the beach.

Ardashir

Treacherous treaty breakers

Andia

Throw them into the sea

In the palate of whales of cold waters

Megabaz

Brave Iranian soldiers will defeat them.

Ardashir

Iranian soldiers and King Ardashir will destroy them, and I will be freed from the fantasy and nightmare of war.

Now is the time for liberation, liberation from me / a new opportunity

Fresh blood in the veins

[shouts]

We will attack Greece

DISSOLVE TO

(CONTINUED)

EXTREME LONG SHOT

[EXT-the commanders come one by one and report the preparation process of the army-DAY]

First General

my majesty, our great army is ready. The preparations are complete. We have prepared soldiers and horsemen on the left and right of the military to attack the Greeks.

Ardashir

Attack with power. This time we will conquer the heart of Europe.

First General

We will attack them like a strong storm and destroy them.

Second General

The navy is also ready with many ships and boats ready to attack and destroy the Greek ships. All our soldiers are experienced and powerful. We will destroy them.

Ardashir

Today, really, I am happy to be here, to be with
my warriors on the battlefield, carefree and
fearless, calm and happy.

but Generals /Alas, even here, my delusions do
not leave me/

Alas, from such great, glorious days still full of
nightmares and delusions.

*[pulls the sword out of the dirt with a
trembling hand]*

Because The past never leaves the future

(CONTINUED)

[INT-in the dormitory tent, the muffled screams of the King, the Guard comes, and the King turns around on the bed-NIGHT]

Guard myLord

[Megabaz comes angry and stands in a corner]

Megabaz

Rise up

[Ardashir gets up and fists his hand towards the Guard and seems to be looking at him]

Ardashir

Bardia...Bardia

[Falls down, Megabaz signals the Guard to go out; Megabaz comes on top of the King's head and hesitates a little, and leaves]

(CONTINUED)

*[EXT-Howl of strong winds and storms,
Ardashir standing on a high place and looking
around-DAY]*

Ardashir

[shows a place to his companion]

Take that group of riders
there...higher...further to...

[Prizatish comes calmly and looks ahead]

Ardashir

[unchanged in his gaze]

Dear mother, you will see the victory of
Ardashir soon...

*[points something in the distance to a soldier
with his hand]*

Go quickly

[Prizatish comes forward with a smile]

Prizatish

It is a pity that the killer is the commander .

Megabaz

Sir, the representatives of the Greek associations request a meeting with the King and a meeting before the start of the war.

Ardashir

We have nothing to say with rebels and traitors

Megabaz

[more calmly]

Cyrus, the King's brother, is also with that group; maybe they have learned about their mother and Lady Andia's presence in the King's presence and on the battlefield's sides.

Ardashir

No

Megabaz

But this meeting is not harmful.

Prizatish

Let him come...

[Ardashir looks at her, walks forward, and turns his head]

Ardashir

Tell them to come

[Megabaz exits and returns after a while]

GUARD

The representatives of the Greek societies enter.

Megabaz

Let them come

[two Greeks and Cyrus enter after them, Ardashir looks directly into Cyrus's eyes]

Ardashir

[to the Greeks]

Will you immediately withdraw your army to the former borders of the Aegean?

First Greek

But the King, now we are here

And firm / among the friends and lovers of Greece

[He hits his foot on the ground]

here, and the King will accept that we have come a long way and can go forward until the conquest of Iran.

Megabaz

Will weak Greece win?

Ardashir

What Cyrus the traitor say?

[He looks straight at him]

Will the Greek win?

Second Greek

The Greek army will stay if it wants

First Greek

But there is still time to agree

Ardashir

Is it not too late to agree? Isn't this your progress a sign of a war?

[Laughs]

First Greek

Greece is ready to hear or say some impressive proposals

Ardashir

O traitorous prince of Iran and the current representative of Greece / do you also say something, or have you come only to spread sedition and tension in your country's army?

Cyrus

I...

[A Greek stops him]

First Greek

We only...

Ardashir

Let the traitor speak

[shudders with rage]

Let him speak

The Iranian prince is not afraid

Cyrus

I have nothing to say now

[looks at mother]

Cyrus

My imprisoned mother, the queen mother of
the prisoner

*[Prizatish goes towards Cyrus, but Ardashir
prevents him from going with his sword]*

Prizatish

Let me go

Ardashir

Go back

[shouts].

Go back, mother

Prizatish

Let me go towards my beloved son

*[Cyrus wants to come forward, but the first
Greek prevent]*

Ardashir

Your beloved son?

This... this woman wants to hug her son

Her beloved son

[Hurry]

Go and come back with an offer

[Representatives exit]

Megabaz

Cyrus has betrayed the country and deserves punishment, hand in hand with enemy and claw in the claw of friend / The army, and its generals need the firm and unchanging command of the King in these hard days/

He must be punished for his Betrayal of Iran with chains or death

Prizatish

Cyrus is your last brother

Ardashir

If this long story ends with the death of my traitor brother [looks at his hands]

Only these hands will inevitably bring down the knife.

Only Ardashiro and no one

[Mother exits]

Megabaz

But the Greeks will surely kill Cyrus in the end

[Ardashir goes out]

Megabaz

Wow, what a difficult war is ahead.

with this hesitant king/

Something should be done

[Firmly]

Bring Lady Andia here

[Guard exits]

(CONTINUED)

[EXT-Plain-DAY]

Guard

representatives of Greece

[Two Greeks and Cyrus come, Ardashir turns his back to them]

Megabaz

Well?

First Greek

We want all the Greek lands with the city of Sardis and Cyprus/we want them all to return to our land

Ardashir

only this?

Second Greek

Be aware that we have conquered so far and moved forward.

Cyrus

The Greek army is not an easy enemy with its heavy-armed soldiers and the high speed of its combat forces

Ardashir

Your words are shameful.

This speech is really painful.

Is Cyrus the traitor one of the true children of
Great Iran? / O God / no / he is not from Iran /
neither his flesh nor his bone/no/

O ghosts of devils, look at his crime too/look at
his hands too/

His hands are also stained with the blood of
Iranians. Look at him, too, you black spirits.

Alas

[returns]

First Greek

Greece will not be patient forever

*[Suddenly playful and sensual Andia comes
and passes by Cyrus, shakes her hands, and
stands near Cyrus]*

Ardashir

Charming Lady

[Cyrus unconsciously raises his hand toward Andia and quickly pulls it back]

My lovely beautiful, Lady Andia

Andia

my dear Cyrus

Ardashir

[to Andia]

come, baby, my love

[Andia gently pulls Cyrus towards her, Cyrus moves forward]

First Greek

Do not go.

[The Greek grabs his hand from behind]

Where are you going?

[Cyrus tries to free himself, but the Greek pulls harder so that Cyrus turns and faces the Greek]

First Greek

[quietly]

Where? Andia is no longer yours

[Cyrus shows Andia]

Cyrus

[as if to himself]

That girl has to say to herself that she is no longer mine, she is not my love... I have to ask her.

First Greek

[quieter]

We had plans

Cyrus

Nothing has been changed

Second Greek

They want to make you angry

Cyrus

[Angrily looks at Ardashir]

I won't let her go

I have to ask her

[Cyrus goes near Andia, who is standing behind the King, kneels down, and touches the corner of her skirt]

O God, how much time has passed

*[Andia pulls her skirt out of Cyrus' hand]
Andia is only Cyrus' love [Andia returns with anger]*

Cyrus

Dear Andia

Andia

Good Cyrus, my eternal love [turns around
Cyrus and covers him with her skirt and stands
behind him, suddenly pulls out a small dagger
from her clothes and raises it] I really love you
from the bottom of my heart

*[She wants to stab Cyrus, but Ardashir's
hands prevent it]*

Ardashir

[shouts]

Andia, don't kill Cyrus

First Greek

Cyrus

[The Greeks come forward, but two soldiers surround them, Cyrus is wounded in the shoulder and moans, Andia tries again, but Ardashir pulls the dagger out of her hand]

Megabaz

The guards

First Greek

No one anywhere attacks ambassadors.

[He wants to come forward, but the Guard stops him]

Megabaz

Imprison Lady Andia, Inform the doctor quickly

[Ardashir gets up as if he sees something before him]

No... I don't want Cyrus to be killed by me. Not this time, Megabaz

[The doctor comes and starts treatment]

Ardashir

[sits next to Cyrus]

Cyrus... Cyrus

[Cyrus moans quietly]

Doctor

My Lord, he will be fine; there was no hard injury

first Greek

We are going

[Megabaz looks at Ardashir, the second Greek goes towards Cyrus]

Doctor

I have bandaged his wounds, and the bleeding has stopped

First Greek

In our army, there are able Greek doctors
,if needed

Second Greek

Let's go

Cyrus

I would never have betrayed my country if you
had not committed those crimes. You must pay
for your crime,

brother

[Ardashir kneels down and then cries hard]

Ardashir

All the forces should be ready to attack

(CONTINUED)

[EXT-Time has passed, and the wind is blowing; Ardashir walks among the dead with his companions-DAY]

First Soldier

my Lord, In these days of war, our ships and the fleet of boats were strongly fighting and trying not to fall into the trap of the efficient Greek sailors / until Greek sailors Scattered in islands around the corners of Aegean waters / our brave sailors, in the heart of the fierce storms of the northern waters these days / and among the hard rocks / and with the promise of many spoils / threw the Greeks into a trap / and like a Eagle/ like a hawk / they tore them to pieces and destroyed their ships and killed their soldiers.

Ardashir

now the enemies are in the mouth of the whales

Megabaz

All mercenary Greeks should be thrown into the sea

Go

[the first Soldier exits, the second Soldier comes]

second Soldier

our brave warriors in the vast plain are still
struggling /but, The infantry of the Greek army
have caught in our trap/

In the beginning, the Greek horse riders
bravely and courageously increased their
attacks and were not afraid of reducing their
number / Their courage did not decrease, and
they came forward / But suddenly and Aware
of the failure of their sailors, they stopped
advancing

.now, The Greeks are retreating and going back
towards the sea. We follow them until we kill
them.

Ardashir

This Time, we will conquer the heart of Greece
and the heart of Europe

[he wants to leave]

second Soldier

But...

Megabaz

Say

second Soldier

But your younger brother Cyrus was wounded
by the sword and killed on the battlefield

Ardashir

Wow...Wow

[Ardashir grabs his ears]

little Cyrus

Megabaz

Wars always have casualties/war knows no one

*[Ardashir blocks the sunlight with the back of
his hand]*

Cyrus is dead on the battlefield

Ardashir

Megabaz / Sunlight blinds my eyes

[excited]

But I...But I have to find my brother's body

his defenseless bloody body/ I must go.../
Where is my horse?

[shouts]

Where is my horse?

[goes out]

Megabaz

Keep some efficient soldiers around the King
until he calms down / brings Lady Andia

[after a while, Andia comes]

Megabaz My Lady

Andia

General, help me. Take me away from the
Queen Mother, that scary older woman. I
wanted to help you, too, by killing Cyrus, now,
she has threatened to kill me.

Megabaz

Cyrus is dead

Andia

Cyrus, my love? Cyrus is Dead...

My dear Cyrus...proud and in love

[laughs]

finally He's dead...

Megabaz

Andia...Lady

[Andia calms down]

Andia

Although I wanted to kill him with my little dagger out of special and purposeful hatred, but...

[quietly]

he loved me from the bottom of my heart.

Megabaz

Your behavior is disappointing

Andia

[Laughs madly]

Is he dead? My last lover died? Does his mother know about his death?

Megabaz

If she hasn't heard yet, she will soon

Andia

Take me away from that spiteful woman

[coming towards Megabaz]

I'm afraid of the King's mother

[angry]

You promised to help me destroy Cyrus.

Megabaz

But not in killing the King's brother in the
presence of the King

Andia

Cyrus is no longer alive

[interruption]

He is dead and has fallen like a stone

[Megabaz points to the Guard]

Andia

[scared]

Don't take me back there [Guard comes forward, Andia backs away] Not there

Megabaz

[goes to the door and suddenly stops]

Well... you have to accept that the times are bad and full of chaos, and maybe today we both need each other

Perhaps we can talk and make a new pact

Andia

Get me away from that scary woman

Megabaz

Lady/ The army and the soldiers in such days need the calmness and support of the powerful and experienced King.

/We can go much further/ to the distant unknown borders of Europe/ to the unknown lands of the West/ beyond the Aegean/ I have always longed for such glorious days.

/Big days are ahead/ Days of honor and high name

Andia

But your commander is disturbed and trapped
in a nightmare and a lingering terror

Megabaz

So calm him down with whatever you can

Andia

calm?

[looks at her Guard]

With this?

Megabaz

Soften the King, calm him down

(CONTINUED)

EXTREME LONG SHOT

[EXT-Ardashir on the throne-DAY]

Megabaz

[Holds a map]

In the past few days, brave horse riders and experienced fast-footed warriors have passed through the mountains and through the marked passes/ to here and here

[shows on the map]

Following the tired and hungry Greek fugitives/ and our soldiers do not leave them.

[A noise comes from behind the stage]

And now...

[Ardashir raises his hand; Megabaz is silent; a soldier comes and kneels]

Megabaz

Say

Soldier

The Greeks surrendered / all the tired and hungry survivors of Greece / with broken

blades and spears surrendered together in the
Asian lands of Iran

*[turns his head and fists his hand and raises
it]*

The prey is in the eagle's claws/ the broken
antlered deer is in the lion's paws.

My lord/ We have won

Ardashir

Have we won?

[gets up and scratches his head quietly]

Did Ardashir win?

[to the sun]

fireballs/ Gods far away [opens his hands and
turns around] Ardashir is unbeaten

[Calm]

Who says that the gods are not with Ardashir?
Isn't it surprising?

Megabaz

Get up

[The Soldier gets up]

Ardashir

You and your family will find a great name / a
great reward awaits you

[the Soldier exits]

Ardashir

[walks with himself]

Your sharp blade is amazing

[stops]

The joyous cries will tear the ears/ and will
split the mountains

*[suddenly looks into the distance and pushes
something away from his eyes]*

Get lost/Black Crows

[Takes a step back]

Run away from Ardashir

*[looks at his hands and hides them in his
sleeve]*

No...these...these hands are pure...pure and
victorious [looks here and there] without any
stain / without any blood

[Then he exits]

Who are the gods not with?

*[Suddenly, he hurriedly goes towards
Megabaz]*

We celebrate the most glorious celebration that
blinds the eyes of the world.

From border to border, all over the vast
country will rise with joy and drink, and
happiness will penetrate the bone marrow.

Megabaz

[then points the finger at the far end]

Until Greece and beyond

Ardashir

Until Greece and after that

and again and again/

As long as there is no fear or thought /

We connect the bright days with the dark
nights and move forward / to wherever

*[Noise behind, Ardashir looks angry, but the
Noise increases, a soldier comes and kneels]*

Megabaz

Say

[The Soldier falls to the ground]

Ardashir

Tell me

Megabaz

Bring water

*[water is brought and sprinkled on him, the
Soldier gets up with difficulty and kneels down
as if he is afraid]*

Soldier

Great betrayal / they have betrayed the King.

Megabaz

What Betrayal? Where?

Soldier

A few days ago in Iran, in the Capital, your
younger brother Bardia sat on the throne and
was crowned

Ardashir

[laughs madly]

Bardia is dead

[Shaking]

Megabaz, Bardia...is dead

Megabaz

Bardia, the King's brother?

Courier

It was him

/ Or, from a distance, he pretended to be
Bardia

/Bardia with the same face, the same glow that
I was once a soldier in his army/

Among the small group of his unreachable
relatives/ and respected ranking clerics

/my Lord/

I saw them at the celebration of their
enthronement in the Capital and at the tomb of
Cyrus the Great with tears in their eyes and
sighs from the memory of their father.

At that time, they were climbing the steps of
the tomb with a soft song and sadness

yes/he was Bardia / Your brother

[fearfully]

I am one of the old spies of General Megabaz,
who has also seen Bardia's dead and wounded
body.

But it was like Bardia himself.

*[Ardashir comes forward; Megabaz comes
towards Ardashir]*

Ardashir

Bardia is dead

[shows his hands]

Look at my bloodied hands / with these stains
that cannot be erased forever.

[puts his hands in front of his eyes]

With these hands, I hugged the bloodied body
of my brother Bardia and buried him

/The dagger from the back killed my brother

Megabaz

Wow, wow / in days like this...

Courier The nobles of Iran and the heads of the
surrounding countries made a solid pact with
him so that he ascended the throne

Ardashir

[madly]

On the throne and my place?

On the throne of Ardashir

[Disturbed]

The terrible spirit of Bardia is sitting on the
throne of Achaemenid with dried blood on the
corpse

Megabaz

Well... how about... the Persian elders and the
heads of the Asian lands of Iran/ with this
haste

/Without religion and without informing and without fear of the fire of Ardashir's anger in war and alive and strong / did they make a pact with the false Bardia? Didn't they hear that Bardia is dead?

This is not wise.

How did the nobles and nobles of Iran dare to betray the King when Ardashir King is alive? To make an alliance with the false Bardia?

Iran's nobles never place the crown prince on the throne without a valid document and reason.

Ardashir

[waves his hands in front of his eyes]

I will destroy you...get lost

Courier

It was not only Bardia's presence there that caused him to be chosen as King.

Megabaz

[shouts]

So how did he get elected as King?

[Silence]

Ardashir

Say

Courier

Bardiya... / Bardiya, the successor, suddenly appeared, holding an authentic letter with a proper and authentic royal seal, asking the elders of Persia to elect a new king in the lands of Iran as soon as possible.

A letter that confirmed that Ardashir had gone mad in Egypt / A letter that said that Bardia should become King to avoid trouble / that said that Bardia had been rescued and was alive / If they don't act soon, the crazy Ardeshir will kill them all

A letter that asking them to accept Bardia as king.

Bardia, who has never died

Ardashir

Who else but the King has the special royal seal?

Who has dared?

Megabaz

The royal seal that is always under observation
and in the treasury with the King's army?

Courier

It was a letter with a correct and prominent
sign and with a special writing and seal...

[turns his head]

The Queen Mother/Lady Prizatish

Ardashir

Prizatish...my mother? She had confirmed that
Bardia was alive with a letter? Did she say that
Bardia is still alive? With official seal and
approval

[laughs]

The unkind mother of the traitor

[Suddenly shouts]

Oh, mother...

Megabaz Yes, your mother still has her old
royal seal in her possession.

You should urgently write a letter to the army
commanders at the borders of the Aegean / the
bad reports will be distributed soon.

Ardashir

[trembles]

Bring that woman / Bring that woman

*[Before the guards leave, Megabaz whispers to
them and then returns to the King; Ardashir is
sulking and whispering in a corner]*

Megabaz

[to himself]

Old wizard

[Walks]

We should at least coordinate with the standing
army of the West and the guards of the Aegean
and be ready

[brings his fists forward]

Wow

[in a loud voice]

the Guard

[writes something that the Guard takes with him, Andia comes from one side and the King's mother from the other, Ardashir reads his childhood poem quietly]

Ardashir

"My deceived and angry monkey is waiting for his mother,

My murderous monkey"

Prizatish

[madly drunk]

"A...

[spins around]

little murderous monkey is waiting for his kind mother"

Andia

My majesty

[she wants to come towards Ardashir, but he refuses]

Ardashir

You destroyed everything

Prizatish

[quietly]

There was nothing left; I piled the leftovers together and burned them.

[suddenly, she stops laughing]

This is just the prologue

Megabaz

Maybe from the beginning in the palace and before the war with Greece, he made up these stories

[points her with his index finger]

the blood of many soldiers and the beginning of a civil war will be on your neck.

Prizatish

[looks to her left and right]

Blood? Whose blood?

[Goes to Megabaz]

Where is it? Which blood?

[Shouts to Ardashir]

Ardashir, which blood?

[Ardashir ignores them and plays with daggers]

Ardashir

a little murderous monkey...

[Prizatish sits on the ground and hugs the length of her skirt]

Prizatish

Roxana's blood? Prince Bardia? or Cyrus?

[She goes towards Ardashir, Andia stops her, but Prizatish hits her]

Don't talk to me about anyone else/from anyone

[angry]

Just tell me about Ardashir / alone, and that's it / your eyes will come out of the bowl with surprise and anger/no? / You chew yourself and spit in the infinite space / No?

You destroyed everything

[She cries, she stops in the middle]

I conspired in the palace and in the prison/a
purposeful conspiracy

/Oh, what stories

A unique betrayal to my son

/I wove and wove the truth and the lie in the
fabric of that artist / to set up your gallows.

/By substituting someone who was a little bit
like Bardia

/the son of the priest of the palace in the
capital

/that I had seen him since he was a child, in
the capital and in the palace

and I knew that he looked like Bardia. So... I
became an accomplice with the priest of the
palace

/And I molded him instead of the true Bardia

/Don't you remember the son of the greedy
palace priest?

/The son of the palace priest looked like
Bardia, and I knew it

/he spent all his childhood in the summer capital and in the palace /I provoked their greed and pushed them forward

[looks at Megabaz]

A fake Bardia is similar to a real Bardia / with a trick

/Who can doubt?

/with a letter with the royal seal of the Queen Mother, who calls her Bardia, and the confirmation of the palace priest

/Yes, Megabaz...

/I also have many old friends who are efficient

/With the help of the endless rain of gold and the unbreakable promise of mother's companionship

/and that others had not seen the body of Bardia/

And the absence of Ardashir, the murderous lunatic in the capital/ with my royal seal/ and my approval

[Stands]

Prizatish

[Andia comes to her]

And this is just the beginning

Andia

I always knew this wounded lion would do things

[Megabaz points to Andia]

I knew

Prizatish

One flick in the right place is enough for mountains to crumble

[Laughs and turns around Ardashir]

A little monkey...

Ardashir

The murderer monkey... fell.. into... my mother's.. trap

Megabaz

The hatred of this woman destroys many lands

[Andia comes forward]

Andia

Your mother has betrayed the King and Iran.
Kill her...

This woman / this witch

Ardashir

*[suddenly pulls up his dagger towards the
mother, who looks at her in surprise and does
not move away]*

Wow...

Prizatish

[Amazed and calm]

Ardashir

*[Prizatish kneels and tears her shirt and
shouts]*

Hit the dagger

[Ardashir goes back]

Andia

Kill her

[Ardashir goes further]

Kill her

Ardashir

No...O God, no

Prizatish

A malevolent panther female

Ardashir

By the gods / She is not my mother

[Perizatish returns and sits down, looking into the distance]

Prizatish

I am Nobody's mother anymore

Nobody

[grabs her skirt in her palm]

I have put the scarred bodies of my children
one by one in their tombs, and that's it

[looks straight at Ardashir]

I wish I hadn't given birth to you

/Monster

Ardashir

Alas

[In the middle of the conversation, the Guard talks to Megabaz in whispers, and the guard leaves, Ardashir seems to be out of breath]

Megabaz

Bad news has been spread, and scattered riots have occurred in the Western army under your command.

Ardashir

[sits on the floor and pulls himself towards his mother]

You stabbed your family and your country from behind

]He gently holds the mother's long hair in the palm of his hand and angrily pulls the razor but does not hit[

Wow

[slowly cuts the ends of the mother's hair with a dagger]

Prizatish

[looks at the sky]

It is as if they have stopped the sun's rays [he gets up, closes his eyes] until terrible darkness cover the world

Andia

Ardashir

[whispers]

Ardashir, the mighty

Ardashir

Guard...

[Guards come and take away Prizatish, Ardashir mumbles in the corner, Andia comes to Megabaz]

Andia

No, he won't kill her, Ardashir is afraid

[Andia takes out a small dagger]

This is a poisoned dagger that will not make a mistake.

[puts the blade in Megabaz's hand]

General, Kill that witch / This crazy woman will
not forgive anyone

[Megabaz backs away]

This dagger kills the sorceress with one hit

/Take revenge for your dead soldiers

Megabaz

I can't/I'm a warrior general/not a murderer/I
didn't kill anyone like this and secretly/no

[closes Megabaz's fist]

Andia

General, kill that woman/ hit her from behind
and in the dark side and put the dagger in her
hands/ I will calm down Ardashir

[Looks at Megabaz]

I calm him down

[Megabaz exits]

DISSOLVE TO

(CONTINUED)

[EXT-The first courier arrives-DAY]

First Courier

Now, a large army of hostile and vengeful Iranian soldiers from the surrounding lands, with horse riders and infantrymen, have passed through Aturpatkan and are coming here.

Andia

[angry]

Go

[the second courier arrives]

second courier

The efficient and guarded cavalry units on the Aegean side have refused to follow the order of their commanders and have taken refuge in the high mountains; they have ignored the warning of the generals and have sought time and insisted on a compromise, the generals warn that If king Ardashir does not find a way as soon as possible and does not give a firm command to attack the rebels, The army will be destroyed

[Ardashir looks like crazy, Then looks at Andia]

Ardashir

[Confused]

Look at her eyes

Blue... Blue

Andia

[Angry]

Oh my God, How weak is this man

Second Courier

My Lord / The commanders are waiting for the
King's clear and hasty order

[Ardashir silently looks in the distance]

The specter of unstoppable chaos flies over the
Iranian army.

Andia

[to the courier]

Quickly go toward General Megabaz

Ardashir

[comes forward and looks into Andia's eyes]

Your brilliance and power blind the world's
eyes

Andia Stop it

Ardashir

The shine of the eyes, from which the fire of
evil will be emanating

Andia

Go away

[the second courier goes out]

Ardashir

the fire of will...

Andia

Stop it

Ardashir

[opens his hands like a butterfly]

Now

[stands]

I am like a feather in the twist of a strong wind.

I feel like I have lost my strength

And my hands are bound with strong straps

Andia

Prince,...I'm with you forever

Even if the skies fall

Ardashir

[sleepy]

Did you see? Did you hear?

Andia

Let it go/ You've come a long way with success
so far

Ardashir

Maybe my Time has come to an end, Look/ in a
deadly calmness, Ardashir's Time has come to
an end/ come, O all the bad and near times/
and chain me up

[to Andia]

Did you hear what kind mother said?

Andia

[quickly]

Let your mother leave you forever. Let
everyone leave you. What does it matter?/
You've come a long way with success so
far/Again as before,you will cross all the
barriers without any glance or fear too/ you
will cross all your sorrows and nightmares
they are all inferior from you/

they are all weak /O victorious Egyptian man
and Greece/ Don't care about anything and
don't be afraid of anything/ even from the soul
of your mother

[Silence]

Maybe...maybe now your mother, your witch's
mother, is no longer alive to trap you in
another trap. Her death also relieves you.

Ardashir

Is my mother not alive now?

Andia

[goes to the corner]

Ardashir listen

[as if he is listening]

Don't you hear the drum of the warriors before
the great war? Blood and fire and smoke/ A
new glorious moment for the boundless King

[firmly]

imagine, only imagine The era of Prizatish is
over.

Ardashir

Where is my mother?

Where is she? Did you kill her?

Andia

You can still ally with the Greeks.

Ardashir

[shouts]

Where is my mother?

Andia Don't be afraid / don't be scared of
your mother's death [stands next to the King]
don't give up work, don't be frightened

[with a smile]

you managed the war well

*[Ardashir suddenly and softly plays with a
dagger and dances]*

With this complicated situation, the soul of
your dead mother will be happy from you
Because she is no longer alive. Leave her. Think
about unity and success.

*[Ardashir hesitantly looks at Andia and
plunges a dagger into her body]*

Ah...you...

[Andia falls down]

Ardashir

[takes two steps back]

Wow, wow ... I killed her

[shouts]

The King killed Andia [a guard comes and goes] Ardashir destroys the world in his arms / and annihilates existence

[raises her hands]

See...see

[The doctor hurriedly goes to Andia]

Come, all you Bloodthirsty, vengeful ghosts,
and trample the victorious body of Egypt,
Greece, and many lands. Come and take your
revenge on me.

Andia

You...killed me

*[Andia stretches her hands towards his hands
and dies, Ardashir goes to Andia and looks at
her]*

Doctor

she is dead.

Ardashir

[shouts]

Leave us alone

[The doctor walks out quietly]

Now,now This white and beautiful swan dies /
What a painful moment.. [Four guards carry
the mother's coffin; Ardashir still has his back
to them and does not return]

Guard

My majesty, the guards have found the body
ofPrizatish in the corner of the prison/ with her
dagger in her fist.

Ardashir

Where is General Megabaz?

Guard

We didn't find him/ It's like they went to the
mountain shelter to meet with other
commanders

[They put the coffin in the middle and exit]

Ardashir

Maybe he went for consultation or ran away
from fear, but will he make a difference now?
What is left of Ardashir's power?

[turns back and looks at the mother's bloody corpse]

Is this woman dreaming?

No?

This sleep has no wakefulness.

[Soldier comes and kneels]

Soldier

My Lord, the survivors of the enemy's army are fleeing from the borders of the Aegean Sea towards Greece and...

[Ardashir does not listen]

But our reports...

Ardashir

[shouts]

Go out

]Soldier goes out, Ardashir drags Andia's body towards his mother[

You see, there's no peace in death either

[looks at his mother]

You did nothing good, Queen Mother.

that you betrayed me

that you conspired against your son,

that you made a false son by conspiracy, you
made a false bardia to reign in my place,

You conspired with those scheming tricksters
to present to the people someone with the same
face as Bardia instead of the dead Bardia, the
slain Bardia, as my successor and destroy me.

So this killing and this campaign between
Iraniansis your work

[Laughs madly]

Look/ the world will soon tremble from the
sound of the drums and the clanking of the
swords of the warriors/ the Iranians will clash
with each other, And they spill each other's
blood on the ground/

The sun will become black due to the dust of
horse hoofs/ and fire, and smoke will destroy
the earth and the sky/

Until the angel of death gives the command to
stop the war and start another round of time.

[goes up, pulls out his dagger, and looks at it]

/But without me

Without Ardashir

[plunges the dagger into his body]

Ah

[Falls down and dies]

(CONTINUED)

MEDIUM SHOT

[EXT-Some time has passed the continuous sound of the strong wind, Megabaz comes after several other-DAY][

First aristocrat What terrible things happened this year

/Isn't it painful?

What a greatness that has now decayed.

[turns around among the dead]

How painful...

[turns to the body of Lady Andia]

The shining beautiful Lady of the imperial royal court with a pale, wounded body

[Puts his hands on the stone and wall]

Look, It's as if the blackness and desolation of the space are mixed with stones and dirt and the breaths of the spiteful.

And the air has become sticky.

Alas, and pity.

Second aristocrat The royal family deserves to be mourned with splendor

First aristocrat With a big memorial so that no one will ever forget these events.

Megabaz Maybe now the enemies of Iran have also become aware of this bad deaths/those who believe that the dead Bardia is alive / alas, Iran will be involved in chaos. Enemies will be happy about this killing.

third aristocrat

Now that we, the seven nobles of the seven great Iranian families, are aware of this dangerous hidden secret, we will not allow the traitors to dominate the power. We will stand against the chaos.

Second aristocrat With our union and at the right moment, we will destroy these traitors to Iran and the royal dynasty.

first aristocrat

we with unity, can compromise with the troops that come here, overthrow the false Bardia and return the monarchy to the Achaemenid family.

Megabaz

Compromise? Compromise with a liar's lie?

[looks at him]

Well...maybe

[stands over the King's head and closes his eyes]

We were winning against Greece with Ardashir;
and the great victory was very close, to conquer
Europe, but it didn't happen; alas

[kneels, prays, and gets up]

Look at his powerful body that is slowly
decaying and rotting. It's a pity

He was once the conqueror of Egypt.

Second aristocrat

We must hurry And do something great; we
seven strong allies

[Megabaz comes forward and clenches his fist]

Megabaz

only one step was needed to the vast plains and
cold mountains of unknown Europe

Second aristocrat The future is ahead

First aristocrat

A great army will soon come from behind those
high mountains

And the spies will refresh our estimations

Second aristocrat

We have to plan for victory.

Megabaz

yes...yes/ let's go and get ready

End of ScreenPlay

Copyright © 2023 by Reza Taheri Bashar

All rights reserved.

No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form without written permission from the publisher or author, except as permitted by U.S. copyright law.

About the author

Reza Taheri Bashar (born in Tehran -1979)
playwright, poet and critic of literature and
philosophy

Books

Play and screenplay The Tragedy of The Death of King
Antiochus

Play and screenplay The Tragedy of The Death of Bardia

Play and Screenplay The Tragedy of The Death of King
Ardashir

Play and screenplay The Tragedy of The Death of Asa

Play and Screenplay The Tragedy of The Death of King
Farvard

Play and Screenplay The Tragedy of the Death of Irene

Play and screenplay The Tragedy of the Death of
Sogdianus

And The first eighty love letters

Contact me

Reza.taheri.basharrrrr@gmail.com

